

securing a Eepublican majority in both Houses of Congress.

• It was the last great speech of his life. Even while making it he was feeling the first pangs of an attack of inflammatory rheumatism, which caused his return to the hospital on November 11, 1918, where he remained till December 25, suffering severely during the greater part of the time, but maintaining complete cheerfulness and serenity of spirit and keen interest in the progress of events, seeing a few callers and keeping up the more personal portion of his correspondence. Writing to Rider Haggard, on December 6, 1918, he said: "I doubt if I ever again go back into public place. I have had to go into too much and too bitter truth telling. Like you, I am not at all sure about the future. I hope that Germany will suffer a change of heart, but I am anything but certain. I don't put much faith in the League of Nations, or any corresponding cure-all"

To a Southern correspondent, D. IL Clark, of Savannah, Georgia, he wrote on December 23, 1918: "*It would be utter silliness for the Progressive Party, as such, to go into the next campaign. In spite of every effort of the leaders it died in 1914 and it is mere folly to keep it alive.*"¹

I saw him almost daily during this period, taking to him my first draft of the earlier chapters of this story of his life, which he read while sitting *up in* bed or in a chair, We talked occasionally of politics. At the time his leadership of his party had become so universally

recognized that
there was an unbroken unanimity of opinion in
favor of him
as the choice of the party for the Presidential
nomination
in 1920. "When I spoke of this to him only a
short time
before his death, he said rather sadly:
"I am indifferent to the subject. I would
not lift a
finger to get the nomination. Since Quentin's
death the
world seems to have shut down upon me. My
other boys
are on the other side of the water fighting, or
being made
ready to fight for their country. If they do not
come back,
what would the Presidency mean to me? At
best I have
only a few remaining years, and nothing
could give me